



THE
JEWISH
DAILY

FORWARD

APRIL 1984

ADAR II / NISAN 5744



אַרבעט הבנים עפ"י חתומי עץ מתוך הגדה של פסח. פראג המאה ה-16

Four Seders

THE NUMBER FOUR IS MUCH ASSOCIATED WITH PASSOVER. We have four cups of wine (although some rabbis argued that there should be one more — for the Messianic age; they compromised on the cup of Elijah). We ask four questions (although some texts of the Mishnah only list three). We talk of four types of children (who, until recently were represented as sons, but at least there've always been four of them). In keeping with the tradition of four, here are the stories of four seders.

B'nei Barak, Judea, ca. 130 C.E.

In this small town near the location of modern day Tel Aviv, five distinguished rabbis met in Roman-occupied Judea to celebrate Passover. We know them well — Rabbi Eliezer, Rabbi Joshua, Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah, Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Tarfon. The story is told in our Haggadah of how they talked all night of the Exodus from Egypt, so absorbed that they did not stop until their students came to call them for morning prayers. Less well known is the tradition that their discussion that night was couched in academic references to the ancient Egyptian oppression, but was actually a planning session for a revolt against Imperial Rome. This theory is historically supported by Akiva's throwing in his lot with the Bar Kochba rebellion against the Roman in 134. In his book, *Season of our Joy*, Arthur Waskow says of this seder: "This may have been the first occasion when Passover was consciously used not only as a celebration of God's gift of freedom in the past, but as an incitement of collective human action for freedom toward the future."

(continued on page 6)

Congregational Seder April 17

OUR ANNUAL SECOND NIGHT CONGREGATIONAL SEDER will be held on Tuesday, April 17, at Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (Van Ness Avenue between Pine and California Streets). Details of the program and menus available appeared in last month's *Forward*. If you haven't already sent in your Reservation Form, do so today — using the form printed elsewhere in this issue. The deadline for reservations is Thursday, April 12.

Plan on joining with the many other members and friends of Sha'ar Zahav who will be attending and participating in this joyous celebration. Tickets are \$25.00 for members, \$30.00 for non-members and \$18.50 for children. Some financial subsidies are available (contact our Treasurer, David Stein, at 648-4818). We also welcome contributions to cover these subsidies.

All tickets will be held for pickup at the door, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and the Seder itself will start at 6:30 p.m. Individual seating is on a first come basis, although tables of eight may be reserved. For more information, please contact Co-Chairs Nancy Meyer (282-8360) or Don Albert (826-0785).



נביע יין לקידוש
כסף. גרמניה המאה ה-18

Women's Chavurah

March Brunch & Blood Drive Report: On Saturday, March 11, we held our Spring Blood Drive at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, preceded by a potluck brunch. We all knoshed and schmoozed and had a delightful time — to say nothing of the mitzvah of then giving blood. As is our tradition, each donor was catered to with a personal stereo, the t.l.c. of our 'Candy-stripers' and a long-stemmed rose. Many thanks to all the folks who made it happen. Donors included Abigail Abuehl, Linda del Moral, Joyce Garay, Allyce Kimmerling, Debbie Lieberman, Marilyn O'Keeffe, Alita Rosenfeld, Beth Shafaran, Shelley Spiro and Dana Vinicoff. Candy-stripers included Jon Funk, David Gass, David Shaber and Head C-S, Mark Mendelow.

Yom Ha-Shoah Program: To commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, an association of Daughters of Holocaust Survivors will be presenting stories, music, slides and poetry dealing with Holocaust themes. The Women's Chavurah urges everyone to attend this presentation at the Jewish Community Center (corner Presidio and California) on April 29 at 2:30 p.m. Following the program, a women's coffee clatch and rap session will be held at the home of Leila Raim and Catherine Wisniewski, 197 Beaumont Avenue (corner Turk, one block east of Sanyan).

The Jewish Gaily *Forward* is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll, Irene Ogus and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Bart Benderoff, Allan Berenstein, Bob Goldware, Frank Hyman, David Shaber, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alan Schrager (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$10 per column inch with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads (for members only) are \$1.00 for up to 20 words, additional words at 5¢ each.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Mike's Column

"SODOMITES IN THE LAND are an abomination unto the Lord and will surely be put to death! Don't argue with me. This is the Lord speaking!"

Well, not exactly. Actually, it was State Senator H.L. Richardson speaking. That cheerful proclamation was offered on the floor of the Senate by him on February 16, 1984. The good senator is opposed to Assembly Bill 1, which would guarantee for gay people the same protection against work discrimination in the work place that every other citizen of California now enjoys.

And he is not alone. Equally opposed are the Reverend Timberlake and a curious company of preachers who are the spiritual descendants of Torquemada, of the Puritan divines of old Salem, and yes, of the Amsterdam rabbis who excommunicated Spinoza.

It's been said that any stigma will do to support a dogma. But what a dogma they preach! One wonders what motivates these American ayatollahs, with their prayer vigils in East Bay motels, and their shrill warnings that simple fairness for gay men and women will destroy the nuclear family. "You can't sign that bill," they scream thoughtfully at the governor. "It will send the whole state to the depths of DEG-RE-DATION!"

Us? Little us? We can do all of that? Leaping Lizards, Daddy Warbucks, I didn't realize we were so powerful!

Reinhold Niebuhr once wrote that the final wisdom of life requires not the annulment of differences or incongruity, but the achievement of serenity within and above it. I don't think these people are very wise, or very serene.

Growing up in Rose of Sharon, Arkansas, one got used to the antics of these stump preachers. They provided comic relief in an otherwise dull landscape and made bearable the heat of a Delta summer. Usually their main concerns were demon rum and those who drank it — "whiskeypalians" they called us.

But then they "discovered" that John Kennedy was planning to install the Pope in the White House, and that everyone to the left of Joe McCarthy was a "pinko race-mixing integrator." And they weren't funny any more.

And they aren't funny now, though there is a temptation to smile a little at the glee with which they greeted the Supreme Court decision to allow nativity scenes on public property. This is victory for religion? This declaration that Xmas is really a "folk festival"?

In a different time and place, Timberlake and Richardson and their cronies might have been only an irritant, like athlete's foot. But Toto, we're not in Kansas any more. California in the 80's is a huge, complex, diverse, substantially urban state, the largest in the nation. And its governor must reflect that sophistication, and honor that diversity.

Is it possible that he could have decided in favor of a group whose understanding of the world — and of religion — is fixed in the Tenth Century? He could, and he did. So now we begin the process all over again. This Bill, or one like it, will pass eventually. Whatever it takes to make it happen, we'll do. It's just too important to stop now!

Listening to Richardson, Timberlake, Falwell, to the New York rabbis who agree with them, it's easy to become

(continued on page 5)

Dedication Weekend

KEEP THE WEEKEND OF MAY 20 FREE, because that's the weekend when we will officially call our home 'Our Own.'

The schedule of events is set as follows:

- On Friday night and Saturday morning we'll have services in the sanctuary.

- On Saturday evening, a party for our members and their guests is planned. We've found a great location on the pier and plan dancing, eating and a chance to really celebrate our accomplishment.

- On Sunday afternoon, from 1 to 4 p.m., we'll have the official dedication ceremony at the Synagogue. Speakers from the community have already been asked to say a few words and share in the celebration of our accomplishment. Everyone who helped make our building possible will be invited. And, a torah procession is planned to carry out the age-old tradition of bringing the torah into its new home.

We'll keep you posted as the time draws closer. And yes, there is a lot to be done. If you'd like to help, call Talia Shafir at 668-2303 or Frank Hyman at 431-9479.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund —

David Shaber, in honor of CSZ

Alex Ingersoll & David Stein, in honor of the Ritual Committee; for the speedy recovery of their father, Albert Stein

Irene Ogus, in honor of Ron Lezell & Jon Funk's beautiful Shabbat service

Walter Leiss, in memory of Abe Kanterman

Bill Ashley-Dobbin, in honor of the Congregation

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Al Radetsky's 70th birthday; in honor of Catherine Wisniewski's graduation; in honor of Alex Ingersoll's birthday

Frank Hyman, in memory of Gary Walsh

For the Building Fund —

Allan Berenstein, in honor of his parents' anniversary; in honor of Stan Fetterman's 50th birthday

Jonathan Funk, in honor of Irene Ogus's birthday

Wynn Strahle, in honor of Alex Ingersoll's birthday

Susan Greenspan, in celebration of her Great-Aunt Sophia's 85th birthday

For the Prayerbook Fund —

Walt Leiss, in memory of his parents

Leslie Bergson, in memory of Temple Radovsky; in memory of Scott Swisher

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Lew Sugarman

For the Phoebe on AIDS Fund —

Richard Ditewig

NOTICE

Sha'ar Zahav's Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

• Sunday, May 6, 2 p.m.
at the Synagogue

*Business includes Election of Officers
and new Va'ad Members for 1984-85*

Men at the Movies

Lights, camera, action! Following our very successful brunch at Allan Berenstein's house in March (some 35 men from the Congregation attended), the CSZ Brotherhood presents 'Thursday Night at the Movies' on April 12th, 7:30 p.m. Come and watch a movie classic: *Stage Door*, starring Katharine Hepburn, Lucille Ball, Eve Arden and Ginger Rogers. Bring your favorite snack (last names A-L) or drink (L-Z) to the home of Frank Hyman at 11 Grandview Terrace. For more information or directions, call Ron Gelb at 558-8278.

Get Out

...and take your friends with you.

Join us at the Membership Committee's spring picnic. It will be the perfect opportunity to get out of the house and enjoy the sun. It will also be the perfect opportunity to introduce your friends (and potential members) to CSZ at play.

Mark the date — Sunday, June 3rd — on your calendar and watch for details in next month's *Forward* of the perfect sun spot we've selected.

*Have you sent in
your Reservation Form?*

Sha'ar Zahav's Congregational Seder

Tuesday, April 17
6:00 p.m.

Golden Gateway Holiday Inn
Van Ness and Pine

*Deadline for reservation forms:
April 12*

Rabbi Search Report

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE *FORWARD*, we are printing the Congregational Description which we developed and sent to the UAHC Placement Office. It will be used to acquaint potential candidates with Sha'ar Zahav.

Our ad has appeared in many publications throughout the U.S. and in several foreign countries; we have begun to receive inquiries from interested rabbis. Through the UAHC Placement Bureau and our ad, we have received eight applications to date. We are reviewing these applications and developing a detailed interview format that will be followed with each candidate to ensure a fair, thorough and accurate evaluation.

If you know of a rabbi that you believe would be interested in applying, please have her/him write to the Rabbi Search Committee.

Elections in May

THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE would like to remind all members that we will be holding our Annual Election at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 6, 2 p.m., at the Synagogue.

The Congregation will be electing a new President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recorder and at least six Members-at-large to the Va'ad. All members will be receiving a special mailing regarding the candidates and other details of the election. Requests for absentee ballots must be received by April 20 and returned no later than May 4, 10 p.m.

As in years past, there will be two Candidates Nights at the Synagogue. Following services on Friday, April 27 and May 4, there will be short presentations by the candidates followed by a question and answer period.

Be sure to vote as this year's slate of candidates is looking like a terrific one.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Congregational Description

Founded in 1977 by several members of the San Francisco gay community, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a synagogue of contrasts, of diversity, of tradition, and of change. Our 200 members represent all of Judaism's religious movements and cultural traditions: Reform to Orthodox, traditional to secular. As a result, although we are a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, our ritual life departs from the classic Reform model. Through the years, an evolving but always dynamic Ritual Committee has developed original liturgy, including Sabbath and holiday prayerbooks, which borrow from all of Judaism's traditions. With our Shabbat prayerbook as a guide, our services are flavored by the individual styles of the laypeople of the Ritual Committee, who share responsibility for leading services, teaching new "zmirot," and delivering sermons.

Besides this blending of different ritual approaches, our liturgy is strongly influenced by feminist and non-sexist principles. We subscribe to full participation by women in every aspect of synagogue life, including leadership of religious services. Our degenderized translations have eliminated all patriarchal images of God and male referents, choosing instead a non-gender-specific image of the Creator.

In addition to our weekly Sabbath and holiday services, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav offers an array of social and cultural activities throughout the year, a monthly newsletter, a women's chavurah, social action and education committees, and opportunities for active involvement with both the Jewish and gay/lesbian communities of the San Francisco Bay Area. Each year we participate with the Jewish Community Federation in its fundraising "Telethon," as well as attend rallies for Soviet Jewry, Israel Independence Day, Jewish regional and national conventions, Gay & Lesbian Freedom Day, and more. Leadership for all our activities and eight standing committees is under the direction of an elected Board of Directors ("Va'ad") and four officers.

Our membership is growing steadily and includes young and old, gay and non-gay, Jews by choice, and a growing number of gay and lesbian parents. As is common in the Bay Area, many of our families-of-origin reside in other cities. Consequently, Sha'ar Zahav strives to be for many an extended family, offering support, community and a sense of "mishpocheh." Our Bikur Cholim Committee brings food, companionship and aid to congregants in need, as well as to Jewish elderly throughout the city. Our popular Passover Seder and Purim and Chanukkah celebrations have traditionally drawn hundreds of non-members who enjoy our Yiddishkeit and "freilichkeit." We take pride in our tradition of offering beautiful and meaningful High Holy Day services, which we provide to our members and the Bay Area community on a no-ticket basis. Over 800 worshippers attended last year's Kol Nidre service.

After three years of residence within the San Francisco Jewish Community Center, the congregation in 1983 voted to acquire a permanent "home of our own." During an exciting four-month fundraising campaign, Sha'ar Zahav succeeded in purchasing and beginning the transformation of a former church into a beautiful synagogue edifice which reflects the pride and sense of accomplishment we feel as gay and lesbian Jews.

Above all else, Sha'ar Zahav is perhaps unique in the degree of commitment and involvement of so many of its members. The purpose which we share — the creation of a synagogue which can afford opportunities for a full and rich Jewish experience without denying our sexuality — continually renews our spirit and our energy. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav challenges, questions, shapes and nurtures our Jewish tradition as we build a meaningful and personally relevant congregational community.

— Prepared by the Rabbi Search Committee, February 1984



שולחן הסדר עפ"י פיתוח ע"ז. ונציה המאה ה-15

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of February, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

- Feb. 3 — Eric, Aaron & Irene, in honor of Eric's mother, Shirley Keitel
- Feb. 10 — David Shaber, in honor of his grandniece, Michelle Schaaff
Flowers given by Tang, in honor of her 6th anniversary with Nanci Stern
- Feb. 17 — The Va'ad, in honor of the Congregation
- Feb. 24 — The many friends and lovers of Alex Ingersoll, in honor of his 37th birthday

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Larry Cohen at an Oneg or call him at 493-0535 or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$30-40 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

On Sunday afternoon, April 29, beginning at 2:30, there will be a program at the Jewish Community Center in observation of Holocaust Remembrance Day. This moving presentation will be based on stories, poetry, music and slides, all on the theme of the Holocaust as experienced by women who are daughters of Holocaust survivors. The JCC is located at 3200 California Street (corner Presidio). The same program will also be presented for women only on Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Building. (See related article under Women's Chavurah report.)

Mike's Column *(continued from page 2)*

angry, frustrated and depressed. When, we ask, will the public see these people for what they are.

But, believe it or not, there are a few hopeful signs, at least in the Jewish community. Consider what happened when we went about getting support for AB-1:

Rabbi Hershman, Regional Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, to which we belong, sent a strongly worded letter of support. So, I understand, did his southern California counterpart. So did the Board of Rabbis. So did Rabbi Gary Greenebaum of Hillel. And he got the older chaplains at State to join in.

During this period, our past president, Cheryl Orvis, was asked to join a group from Reform temples in northern California who will serve as resource people for congregations with administrative difficulties.

At the Jewish Federation Telethon, all of our participants were warmly welcomed, and our contribution was publicly acknowledged. Many people came up to us to express their support, and to say "Mazel Tov" for our new synagogue building.

After years of denying our existence, the *Jewish Bulletin* in recent weeks has printed letters on gay issues from three members of our congregation. And the new editor has offered to meet with us to develop a good working relationship. What a change! In the past, if Joe Montana and the entire Forty Niners football team had converted to Judaism and joined Sha'ar Zahav, the *Bulletin* would have printed the news if at all, on page 23, just below the scores of the Thursday Afternoon Canasta Club of Fremont.

Finally, even a few orthodox rabbis are beginning to develop a more sensitive and thoughtful position on homosexuality. A good gay friend of mine asked the orthodox rabbi with whom he was studying if he would officiate at his conversion ceremony, and after some reflection, the rabbi said yes.

It took a lot of time and a lot of effort to bring about these really remarkable changes. But it was all worth it, and how good it feels to have that support. It's hard to imagine that all of this would have happened if our congregation, and others like it, did not exist.

As we move into the season of Passover, to the festival of our deliverance, may we spend a little time thinking about how hard won these freedoms are. Next year, if not in Jerusalem, then at least in a state — and a nation — that are more nearly free.

Chag Sameach, and Shalom,

— Mike

Mark S. Mendelow, L.C.S.W.

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Four Seders (continued from page 1)

Toledo, Spain, 1409

Miguel Santangelo stepped out of his house into the clear April midnight. He forced himself to walk slowly, like a man with no particular purpose — just out for a night stroll in the city. He came to what seemed a deserted house in a narrow alley. Still trying to appear casual, he knocked at the door. A man emerged and looked closely at Miguel's face. Nodding, the man led him down a dark flight of stone steps to an earthen cellar. Here, a table was set with a white cloth, seder plate and platter of matzohs. Miguel Santangelo was about to attend his first Passover seder as a New Christian, a Converso.

In 1391, the powerful Dominican order instigated anti-Jewish riots which faced many Spanish Jews with the choice of baptism or death. Once baptized, any observance of Jewish custom was a crime of heresy, punishable by torture or death. Nevertheless, many — even most — of the Conversos kept their Jewish faith in secrecy, passing it on to their children.

With Miguel's arrival, the assembly was complete. The secret Jews in a cellar in Spain began softly to chant the words of the Haggadah. "This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt... this year we are slaves, next year we will be free!"

Warsaw, Poland, 1940

Warsaw schoolteacher Chaim Kaplan kept a Hebrew diary of life in the Warsaw ghetto until he was taken to Treblinka in 1942. His account of Passover in 1940 describes the last year in which there was any semblance of a joyous Passover in this city which had been a center of Eastern European Judaism for hundreds of years:

The synagogues are closed, but in every courtyard there is a holiday service, and cantors sing the prayers and hymns in their sweet voices. In every home the signs of the holiday are manifest. The people run around carrying packages of matzoh as if the sword of sabotage were not hovering over their heads....



כוס של אליהו
כסף. פולין המאה ה-19



מתן תורה עפ"י דקמה על פרוכת משי. איסלית המאה ה-19

Vienna, Austria, 1971

In her twelve years, Vera Markovna had never attended a Passover seder. She had never been in a synagogue, or heard a word of Hebrew. She only knew that she was Jewish because the other girls at school called her "dirty Jew" when they wanted to taunt her. Things had become really bad four years ago, when Papa applied for visas to Israel. Papa lost his job almost at once, and they had all thought that he might go to prison. The neighbors wouldn't speak to him or to Mama anymore, for fear the authorities would think they were associated with them. But, two months before, a miracle had happened, their visas had been granted, and now they were in Vienna, only one more plane ride away from Israel. The plane would take off tomorrow, but tonight was the festival of Passover, which Vera had never celebrated, the Jewish holiday of freedom and redemption. Almost two hundred emigres from all over the Soviet Union met in the banquet hall of a Vienna hotel, and, led by a woman journalist from Israel, held a seder which ended with the words of all seders: 'Next year in Jerusalem!' As the emigres excitedly bellowed the words, Vera thought about it, and her eyes grew wide with wondering.

Perhaps the seder that we will hold ourselves belongs with these others; we too are fighting for our right to be who we are.

— Leslie Bergson
Ritual Chair

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Adar II 1	29 2	1 Nisan 3 Rosh Chodesh	2 4 Education Comm. 7:30pm	3 5 Building Comm. 6:30pm	4 6	5 7
6 8	7 9 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm	8 10 Newsletter Deadline	9 11	10 12 Social Action 7pm Brotherhood Movie 7:30pm — 11 Grandview Terr.	11 13	12 14
13 15	14 16 Erev Pesach First Seder	15 17 1st Day Passover Congregational Seder 6pm Van Ness & Pine	16 18	17 19 Building Comm. 6:30pm	18 20 Deadline: Requests for Absentee Ballots	19 21
20 22	21 23 Newsletter Comm. 648-4818	22 24 8th Day Passover Yizkor East Bay Lunch Group 921-7846	23 25	24 26 Ritual Co. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, #1705 Newsletter Mailing 648-4818	25 27 Candidates Night	26 28
27 29 Yom Ha-Shoah Program, 2:30pm 3200 California	28 30 Finance Comm. 5:30pm					

Ritual Calendar — April

- Friday, April 6
Parshah: Metzora, Lev. 14:1-15:33
Haftarah: II Kings 7:3-20
Jon Funk, Services
- Friday, April 13
Shabbat Ha-Gadol
Parshah: Aharei Mot, Lev. 16:1-18:30
Special Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24
Daniel Chesir, Services
- Tuesday, April 17
Second Seder Night
Sha'ar Zahav's Community Seder
(Golden Gateway Holiday Inn — Van Ness & Pine)
Ritual Committee & Friends
- Friday, April 20
Shabbat Chol Ha-Moed Pesach
Special Parshah: Ex. 33:12-34:26
Num. 28:19-25
Special Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:37-37:14
Garry Koenigsberg, Services and Haftarah reading
- Friday, April 27
Parshah: Kedoshim, Lev. 19:1-20:27
Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15
Mike Rankin, Services
Special Yom Ha-Shoah Service

Ritual Preview — May

- Friday, May 4
Parshah: Emor, Lev. 21:1-24:23
Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31
Steve Greenberg & Terry Rothchild, Services
- Friday, May 11
Parshah: Be-Har, Lev. 25:1-26:2
Haftarah: Jeremiah 32:6-27
Daniel Chesir, Services

Services are held every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

Upcoming Dates

- Friday, May 4 — **Second Candidates Night**
Sunday, May 6 — **Congregational Meeting and Elections**
Sunday, May 13 — **Israeli Independence Day at Stern Grove**
Monday, May 14 — **Va'ad Meeting**
Friday, May 18 through Sunday, May 20 — **Building Dedication Weekend**
Sunday, June 3 — **Membership Committee Picnic**
Monday, June 11 — **Va'ad Meeting**

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

My lover and I have been coming to services on Friday nights, off and on, for years. We usually feel relaxed and good afterwards, but my lover often wants to go to bed almost as soon as we get home — the brute. Not that I don't too, but it doesn't seem right, just after services, to jump into bed. Isn't this something not appropriate for Shabbat.

Confused in the Castro

Dear Confused,

Your problem (we should all have such problems!) is simple. If your only worry about Friday night sex is religious, you shouldn't worry. Our rabbis taught that loving sex was a particular mitzvah on Friday nights, and that the especially devout will make it a point to do so every Friday in honor of Shabbat. (Our Rabbis may have had different expectations about gender and marital status than might strictly apply in your case, but then they're not as up-to-date as your Aunt Yente.)

Your Aunt Yente feels that warm, supportive sex, whether or not within a relationship, is a fine and very appropriate way of celebrating the date set aside for rest, love and self-awareness. She only has trouble when (as sometimes could happen, even for Aunt Yente) the sex is in a context which is not caring and feels more like "work" or when people risk their health. Aunt Yente feels that you are likely to know which, for you, is "Shabbesdek", caring sex, and which is sex that doesn't result in good feelings and does not honor the Shabbat.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Sha'ar Zahav, like most synagogues I've ever seen, has a light burning continually over the Ark. Does this serve as a memorial, or does it symbolize the presence of God? And what is the strange word written on Sha'ar Zahav's light, which I haven't seen before in other synagogues?

Enquiring in Eureka Valley

Dear Enquiring,

The *neir tamid*, or eternal light, Aunt Yente has also seen in every synagogue she's been to. When you ask what it symbolizes, the answer is yes. Yes, it is a reminder of the dead, but yes, too, it symbolizes the constant presence of God. You don't think something can symbolize two things at once? Then you should try Aunt Yente's blintzes, which not only represent God's promise of a land of milk and honey, but also stand for a solid 900 calories each.

As for the word written on Sha'ar Zahav's light, this puzzled Aunt Yente too, until she remembered something she had learned in Cheder. (In the old country you see, Aunt Yente dressed up as a boy so that she could study Talmud, but she was expelled from school for being too interested in girls.) In the book of Sh'mos (what the fancy people call Exodus), Moses asks God what God's name is. God replies "Ehyeh asher ehyeh: I am what I am." I should explain a little? God is greater than any possible name could encompass; all names, all language, is only part of God's creation. So you should understand that God's entirety cannot be revealed in a name, any more than in an idol or a human being, so God simply says "Ehyeh. I am." The word on the Sha'ar Zahav *neir tamid* is "Ehyeh."

Aunt Yente

P.S. If you think Aunt Yente should always have a punchline to wind up with, maybe you would like to write the column. A.Y.

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in the *Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. All material © 1984 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

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Appointments

Super Sunday Report

On Sunday, March 3, twelve members of Sha'ar Zahav participated in the annual Super Sunday fundraising telethon for the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Marin, San Mateo and Sonoma Counties, held at the Fairmont Hotel. We as a congregation can take pride in having participated in an effort which raised \$1.6 million for use by social service agencies in the Bay Area and in Israel. Thanks to Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Russell Discher, Steve Elman, Jon Funk, Alex Ingersoll, Ron Lezell, Steve Lowinger, Bob Mackey, Mike Rankin, David Shaber and David Stein for furthering our presence and involvement in the Jewish community.

Va'ad Report

THE MARCH VAAD MEETING was held on Monday, March 12, at 220 Danvers. Major topics of discussion included the upcoming dedication ceremony and related events to take place that weekend.

The Commemorations Committee presented its plans for two plaques to be installed in the Synagogue, one being a donors plaque, honoring those individuals who contributed substantially to our building campaign. The other plaque will be a dedicatory plaque, honoring the Va'ad, officers, committees and the entire congregation, whose hard work made the acquisition of 220 Danvers a reality. These plaques will be unveiled during the dedication weekend.

The Va'ad also passed the proposed budget and schedule of events for dedication weekend. Festivities will include a party on Saturday night and a Sunday afternoon event formally dedicating the building. In addition, we will have our usual Friday night services and a special Saturday morning service.

In other business, the Va'ad passed the proposed budget for fiscal 1984-85 which was prepared by David Stein, our treasurer, and the Finance Committee. The budget will then be presented to the Congregation at the Congregational Meeting in May for final approval. David expressed special thanks to Jerry Rosenstein for all his help in budget preparation.

The newly-formed CSZ Brotherhood has agreed to take responsibility for organizing the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day activities this year. They will be contacting the Women's Chavurah for their input and shared responsibility.

The Building Committee has been hard at work developing proposals for the exterior and interior painting of the building. David Gellman presented a color scheme for the outside of the building, and it was approved by the Va'ad. Presently, we are getting bids for the interior painting. It is hoped that the exterior and interior painting can be finished in time for our dedication weekend. All of the fire extinguishers in the building have been replaced to meet code regulations.

The Rabbi Search Committee reports that applications for the new rabbi have begun to come in. The committee will be meeting to go over these applications, and it is conceivable that interviews will be taking place over the next few months.

The annual 'advance', a weekend planning session for the Va'ad and committee chairs, will take place on the last weekend in July this year, soon after the new Va'ad and administration begins their term of office. This weekend is used to have an intensive period of time in which to plan congregational goals, and examine the process by which the leadership directs the Congregation throughout the year.

Once again, I encourage those of you who have not attended a Va'ad meeting to do so. It will give you a golden opportunity to see how the Congregation 'works'. The meetings are held the second Monday of every month, at 6:30 p.m. at 220 Danvers Street. Until next month...

— Eric Keitel, Recorder

RESERVATION FORM CONGREGATIONAL SEDER Tuesday, April 17, 6 p.m. Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (Van Ness and Pine)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

_____ Members (at \$25.00 each)

_____ Non-members (at \$30.00 each)

_____ Children (at \$18.50 each)

as follows (indicate number of each):

_____ Kosher-style meals

_____ Kosher Nutrition Project meals

_____ Vegetarian meals

In addition, I wish to donate \$_____ toward Seder subsidies.

☐ I request that signing for the hearing impaired be provided.

☐ My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge \$_____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Visa # _____ Exp. _____

MC # _____ Exp. _____

MC Interbank # (4 digits) _____

Signature: _____

Mail to Congregational Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114

All reservation forms must be received by Thursday, April 12.

Tickets will be held at the door under the name provided above.

April Birthdays!

- 2 Victoria B.
- 6 Roberta W.
- 7 Judy M.
- 12 Terry Rothchild
- 12 Gerson Lieberman
- 14 Phil W.
- 17 Diana Buchbinder
- 19 Alita Rosenfeld
- 20 Bill Ashley-Dobbin
- 20 Lenny Brill
- 21 Milton J. Mosk
- 27 Nanci Stern
- 29 Shirley Liberman

April Yahrzeits

- Robert Schwartz, Son of Gwen Schwartz
- 1 Gizella Weiss, Grandmother of Wendy Weiss
- 1 Geraldine Minsky Rankin, Mother of Mike Rankin
- 2 Donald Gelb, Father of Ron Gelb
- 4 Morris Witkin, Grandfather of Michael Barclay
- 10 (8 Nisan) Max Pechter, Father of Bernard Pechter
- 11 (9 Nisan) Bessie Landesman, Grandmother of Jonathan G.
- 12 (10 Nisan) Max Radetsky, Grandfather of Allan Berenstein
- 14 Frank Blazewick, Nephew of Joan Blazewick
- 17 Wally Rifkin, Brother of Hy Rifkin
- 22 (20 Nisan) Josef Ha'Cohen Chesir, Grandfather of Daniel Chesir
- 25 Irving Brill, Father of Leonard Brill
- 29 (27 Nisan) Morris Goldman, Grandfather of Jonathan G.

Gay?

Jewish?

Not a member of Sha'ar Zahav?

**A
SCHANDE!**

To receive a membership application, simply request one by phoning the Sha'ar Zahav office at 861-6932, write to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101, or pick one up at services, every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, 220 Danvers at Caselli.

Classified Ads

VOICE LESSONS: Learn to relax and have fun while you create the sounds you have always wanted to hear yourself sing. It can be done! Call Jill Rose, 431-3932.

GUITAR LESSONS: Learn to play what you hear around you and inside you. Learn songs, music theory and improvisation — painlessly. All levels. Have fun! I love to teach! Suzanne P. Shanbaum, 261-0791.

PIANO LESSONS: Classical, improvisation and composition. Beginners especially welcomed. Experienced, encouraging teacher. Call Jill Rose, 431-3932.

If John Kennedy Toole were alive and Jewish and wrote an even better book set in San Francisco, would you be interested? Benefactor sought for financial assistance associated with a final polishing to a blockbuster: Maurice, Box 5433, SF 94101.



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California 94114
(415) 861-6932

Officers: President, Mike Rankin; Treasurer, David Stein; Recorder, Eric Keitel

Va'ad (Board) Members: Don Albert, Allan Berenstein, Alex Ingersoll, Ron Lezell, Mark Mendelow, Nancy Meyer, Leila Raim, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Chairs: Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus; Building, David Gellman; Bylaws, David Gass; Education, Joanne Woolf; Elections, Betty Kalis; Finance, Tom Rothgiesser; Membership, Allan Berenstein; Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll; Oneg, Larry Cohen; Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky; Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper/Leila Raim; Ritual, Leslie Bergson; Social Action, Ron Lezell; Women's Chavurah, Chair shared by committee.

Office Manager: Susan Greenspan (Office is open Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.) **Emergency Number:** At other times the Congregation can be contacted in an emergency situation by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.